

GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER



Natwar M. Gandhi
Chief Financial Officer

September 19, 2012

Colbert I. King
Columnist
The Washington Post
1150 15th Street, NW
Washington, DC 20071

Dear Mr. King:

In response to your email, I would like to make the following points:

The Post surmises that Mr. George was, “fired from his previous position for lowering assessments.” In fact, there is no evidence that Mr. George’s departure from Fulton County was based on lowered assessments, let alone inappropriate conduct by Mr. George. Section 9.1 of the employment contract between the Fulton County Board of Tax Assessors and Tony George specifically states that, “Tony George will serve as Assistant Chief Appraiser at the pleasure of the Board, and may be suspended or removed by the Board at will; provided, however, in the event that Tony George is removed as Assistant Chief Appraiser without cause (cause being defined as illegal acts, insubordination, or the failure to satisfactorily perform the duties and responsibilities of the Assistant Chief Appraiser), he shall be retained for consulting a transitional services …for a period not to exceed ninety (90) days immediately following such removal without cause.”

Though his contract ended in its fourth year, it was for no cause (please see attached letter). Additionally, Mr. George was retained to perform the consulting and transitional services referenced in the contract and received payment for those services. Thus, it is clear that Fulton County concluded that Mr. George had committed no illegal or inappropriate acts during his tenure.

In recruiting for the position of Chief Appraiser, the OCFO procured the services of a reputable search firm. The firm presented no derogatory information regarding Mr. George or his employment with Fulton County. Additionally, the OCFO, in conducting its background investigation, contacted Fulton County officials and, again, was presented with no derogatory information about Mr. George’s employment. Much of the derogatory information presented by the Post is based on suspicion, unproven allegations, and depositions, not publicly available, given by a handful of terminated employees who brought suit against the county. The suit has

yet to be tried and concluded before a finder of fact. Mr. George is not a named defendant in that suit and there are no allegations in the suit that he improperly reduced assessments.

Sincerely,



Natwar M. Gandhi

Attachment



State of Georgia
Department of Labor

SEPARATION NOTICE

1. Employee's Name TONY L. GEORGE 2. S. S. No.

3. State any other name(s) under which employee worked.

3. Period of Last Employment: From JUNE 19, 2006 To JULY 22, 2010

4. REASON FOR SEPARATION:

a. LACK OF WORK

b. If for other than lack of work, state fully and clearly the circumstances of the separation: DISMISSED WITHOUT CAUSE

5. Employee received payment for: (Severance Pay, Separation Pay, Wages-In-Lieu of Notice, bonus, profit sharing, etc.)
(DO NOT include vacation pay or earned wages)

REGULAR PAY CHECK In the amount of \$ _____ for period from JULY 21, 2010 to JULY 22, 2010
(Type of payment)

Date above payment(s) was/will be issued to employee AUGUST 13, 2010

IF EMPLOYEE RETIRED, furnish amount of retirement pay and what percentage of contributions were paid by the employer.
_____ per month _____ % of contributions paid by employer

6. Did this employee earn at least \$3,500.00 in your employ? YES NO If NO, how much? \$ _____
Average Weekly Wage _____

Employer's Name FULTON COUNTY / TALX

Ga. D. O. L. Account Number 120068-02
(Number shown on Employer's Quarterly Tax and Wage Report, Form DOL-4.)

Address P.O. BOX 6170
(Street or RFD)

I CERTIFY that the above worker has been separated from work
and the information furnished herein is true and correct.
This report has been handed to or mailed to the worker.

City PEABODY State MA ZIP Code 01960

Signature of Official, Employee of the Employer
or authorized agent for the employer

Employer's Telephone No. 1-888-750-8839
(Area Code) (Number)

CHIEF APPRAISER

Title of Person Signing

AUGUST 12, 2010

Date Completed and Released to Employee

NOTICE TO EMPLOYER

OCGA SECTION 34-8-190(c) OF THE EMPLOYMENT SECURITY LAW REQUIRES THAT YOU TAKE
THIS NOTICE TO THE GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF LABOR FIELD SERVICE OFFICE IF YOU FILE A
CLAIM FOR UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE BENEFITS.

SEE REVERSE SIDE FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION.

DOL-800 (R-8/02)